

**Statement of H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations at the General Debate of the ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment, 19 May 2020, 10-1 pm**

Thank you Mr. President. We align ourselves with the statements delivered by the Chair of G77, and the Chair of the LDCs.

I thank the Secretary General for his substantive report on the implementation of the QCPR 2016 resolution. I also thank DSG for her leadership in this process.

Allow me to briefly highlight a few points. *Firstly*, I wish to reiterate that we expect the UNDS to adhere to the principles of the 2016 QCPR resolution, and closely align with the priorities set by the national governments, in their support to governments on post pandemic recovery. We expect that the RCs and UN Country Teams' response to the Covid pandemic will complement the efforts of the programme countries to achieve the SDGs.

*Second*, we are heartened to hear that most member governments feel that the UNDS is found to be more relevant and responsive to their country's development needs [in the past three years.] In order to sustain this positive engagement, it is important that national governments are closely consulted while developing the guidelines for the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks.

*Third*, we fully share the observations made in the report that more targeted support from the UNDS is needed by the countries in special situations, in the next QCPR cycle, especially in view of the inevitable serious socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on these countries. In this regard, we would request [SG] to ensure that graduation-related capacity development activities (for the LDCs) are well coordinated, and a flexible approach is adopted to help governments to mitigate the impacts of graduation.

*Fourth*, we would also request that RCs and UNCTs keep climate actions as a priority in the programme countries.

*Finally*, I would like to take the opportunity to draw the SG's attention to one issue and to hear from him:

In its 2019 report to ECOSOC, the UN Committee for Development Policy stressed the urgency for the UNDS to develop common guidelines to ensure LDCs are prioritized in all programming and budgeting, and that it supports the smooth transition of countries from the LDC category. How is that recommendation being implemented? We would like to hear of the progress on this.

I thank you, Chair.